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503.30414C13

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/390,681

Filed: September 7, 1999

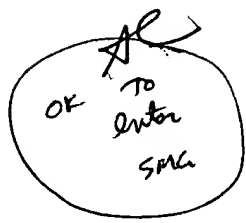
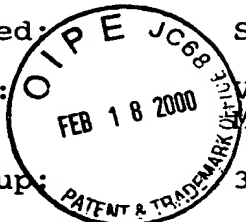
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

Group: 3749

Examiner: S. Gravini

Allowed: November 30, 1999

Batch No.: E87



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312(a)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Box Issue Fee

Washington, D.C. 20231

February 18, 2000

Sir:

Subsequent to issuance of the Notice of Allowance mailed November 30, 1999, and concurrently with payment of the Issue Fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims presently in the application as follows:

Claim 3, line 14, delete "after" and insert --while--;  
line 15, delete "said" (second occurrence);  
line 16, delete "another" and insert --a  
third--.

Claim 8, line 16, delete "after" and insert --while--;